

GRANT COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Program



Cannonball River TMDL Implementation Project

The Grant County Soil Conservation District is NOT a regulatory agency and is driven to serve the public through voluntary requests to manage their resources. The Grant County Soil Conservation District is able to assist livestock producers to comply with ND Department of Health regulations to eliminate runoff from manure into waters of the state. Livestock producers need a permit with the ND Department of Health to operate if there is potential for manure polluting waters of the state. EPA has recently announced a final rule extending the deadline from July 31, 2007 to February 27, 2009 regarding concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), livestock producers with over 1,000 beef cattle. Those under 1,000 head (AFOs) are to submit their application by July 1, 2008.

The Soil Conservation District role in the permitting process is to assist the producers with the technical and financial support needed to comply with these state regulations. Many livestock producers are leery of addressing this topic since the stigma of these projects and the regulations mean "full-blown ag waste systems." Not at all. The most effective and efficient way to manage concentrated manure is to change the management of the operation (if possible) such as limiting the amount of feeding time in the wintering feeding areas. Or a simple dike/diversion can be created to re-route water to take care of the majority of the problem. If you have been thinking complying with the state regulations, now is the time to ask questions. We will be working closely with the ND Stockmen's Association and the ND Dept of Agriculture.

Objective 1: Maintain the geometric mean concentrations for fecal coliform bacteria below 200 colonies/100 mL and reduce the occurrence of single samples exceeding 400 colonies/100 mL to represent less than 10% of samples.

Best Management Practices that are designed to promote healthy water quality and riparian areas through management of livestock and associated grazing land include:

- Water well and tank development
- Fences
- Prescribed Grazing
- Ag Waste Systems

319-Nonpoint Source Pollution, an alternative program other than EQIP, provides 60% cost share dollars for conservation practices. 319 funds are available year round and you do not need to compete for cost share dollars. *Questions or Concerns*—Give Joyce a call.



Objective 2: Increase livestock producers' awareness and understanding of various management options that will reduce or prevent the delivery of livestock manure to nearby waterbodies. *Producers in the watershed will be invited to attend informational meetings/workshops/tours which are ways to increase awareness and understanding.*

Funding:

The Grant County SCD has been awarded \$165,065 through the EPA-319 program (passed through the ND Department of Health) to assist livestock producers with the Cannonball River TMDL Implementation Project watershed in managing their livestock manure.

Project Goal:

The primary goal of the Cannonball River TMDL Implementation Project is to achieve fully supporting status for the recreational uses on the portion of the Cannonball River from its confluence with Snake Creek downstream to its confluence with Cedar Creek.

Partner Agencies:

Grant County Soil Conservation District
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
North Dakota Department of Health
North Dakota Stockmen's Association
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
Phone: (701)622-3381
Fax: (701)622-3083
E-mail: joyce.bonogofsky@nd.nacdnet.net